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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 20th November, 2025

No. 5/85/2025-1LG4/308.- In compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CWP no. 26758 of 2018 titled '"Hakam Singh versus State of Punjab and Other" and connected matters, the Government of Punjab had framed the "The Punjab Compensation to the Victims of Animal Attacks and Accidents Policy, 2023" with a view to establish uniformity in providing compensation to victims of attacks by stray animals within the State of Punjab.

Keeping in view some of the challenges being faced in implementation of the policy and in view of the directions made by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CWP No 22904 of 2016 titled "Rajwinder Kaur versus State of Haryana & Others", the amended policy is made as under in pursuance of the entries no 15 and 51 of the State List of Schedule VII read with Article 246 of the Constitution of India.

PRELIMINARY

1. Short titled and commencement:

(1) The present policy shall be called, "The Punjab Compensation to the Victims of Animal Attacks and Accidents Policy, 2025".

(2) It shall apply throughout the State of Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force on the date of its Notification in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions:

In this policy, unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) " Animal" means any Dog, Bull, Horse, Cow, Calf, Pony, wild animal, any other stray animal or deserted animal.

(b) 'Animal Welfare Organization' means and includes the society for prevention of cruelty to animals and any other welfare organization for animals which is registered under the Societies Registration Act,1860 (21 of 1860), or any other corresponding law for the time being in force and which is recognized by the Animal Welfare Board of India constituted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960):

(c) 'Animal Attack/accident Compensation Committee' means committee appointed under rule 4 of the Policy or modified by the Government time to time by notification.

(d) "Competent Authority" means concerned

i. Commissioner of concerned Municipal Corporations, Executive Officer of concerned Municipal Councils/Nagar Panchayats in case accident took place within limits of municipalities.

ii. Gram Panchayats, in regard in case accident took place within its jurisdiction..

iii. 'Divisional Forest Officer', means the officer in charge of the territorial division where the accident/incidents of any wild animal has taken place.

iv. 'Executive Engineer' PWD(B&R) where the incident/accident due stray/wild animal have taken place on the State Roads/State Highways.

v. 'Project Director/his Nominee and Concessionaire/Authorized person of Concessionaire, if any (where the accident/incident has taken place on National Highway under the jurisdiction of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

vi. Any other department/board/corporation etc or any other private institution under whose jurisdiction, the accident/incident has taken place.

(e) "Wild Animal" shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 2(36) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 as amended in 2022 but shall exclude monkeys and snakes.

(f) "Stray animal" means an ownerless animal (male/female) found straying around within the State of Punjab.

(g) "Veterinary doctor" means a person who holds a degree of a recognized veterinary college and is registered with the Indian Veterinary Council.

COMPENSATION AND PROCEDURE

3. Grant of Compensation for accident, attack or death with stray animal. - Whosoever is the victim of the attack by any stray animal or accident caused due to a stray animal shall be eligible for compensation as provided in this policy.

4. Animal Attack/accident Compensation Committee to determine Compensation.

(1) There shall be an Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee for each district to determine the amount of compensation to be granted to the victims as caused by accidents/attacks or deaths with stray animals.

(2) The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee shall consist of following officers:

(i) Deputy Commissioner	*(Chairperson)*
(ii) Superintendent of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic)	*(Member)*
(iii) Sub Divisional Magistrate of the concerned area	*(Member)*
(iv) Regional Transport Officer	*(Member)*
(v) Representative of Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon	*(Member)*

Additional members (to be nominated on case to case basis)

a) District Development and Panchayat Officer/Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) (where the cases relating to the accident/incident are reported to be in a Panchayat area)

b) The District Forest Officer (where the cases relating to the accident/incident have taken place on account of any wild animal)

c) The Executive Engineer, PWD (B&R) (where the incident/accident due to stray/wild animal have taken place on the State Road/State Highways)

d) Additional Commissioner/Executive Officer/Secretary of the Municipal Corporation/Committee (where it relates to the Local Self Government/notified area under Municipal law)

e) The Project Director/his Nominee and the Concessionaire/Authorised person of Concessionaire, if any (where the accidents/incident happen on National Highways under the jurisdiction of NHAI)

f) The Executive Head/District head or his nominee of the implementing Department (where the incidents/accidents are reported to have taken place at the site of a project being implemented/ carried out under some scheme of the Government).

5. Application for grant of compensation under the policy:

The victim or the legal heirs of the victim (in case of his death) or duly authorised representative of the concerned shall file an application in Form-A to the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee along with relevant documents provided under the policy for grant of compensation.

6. Notice to the concerned Competent Authority:

(1) The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee on receiving such application having complete information as required under Clause 5, shall issue notice to the concerned competent authority under whose jurisdiction such accident has taken place.

(2) The concerned competent authority or authority authorized by the same shall verify the facts and submit its recommendations within the specified period as given by the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee.

(3) In case, if the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee finds any doubt regarding the grounds of death of a deceased person, the committee may mark an enquiry or appoint a local commissioner to determine the facts of the happening of such incident as caused by the stray animal.

(4) The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee may examine the causes of death or injury to the victim and may seek such documents/information from the legal heirs of the victim or their legal representatives (in case of death) or from the victim (in case of incapacitation or injury) as it may desire and the concerned shall be bound to provide it.

(5) While examining the matter the concerned committee shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and fair play.

7. Points for examination by the Animal Attack / Accident Compensation Committee: The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee shall, inter alia, examine the following issues while deciding the claim of incident/accident with the stray animal:

a) The Committee shall corroborate the evidence presented to establish that there is a subsisting claim with a series of documents that are inclined to prove the case of the claimant. The onus shall be on the claimant to prove the case.

b) The Committee shall also examine the manner in which the incident is alleged to have taken place is not to be corroborated solely by a self-serving statement of the claimant. The supporting contemporaneous documents and the witnesses need to be examined to establish that the incident/ accident occurred in the manner as alleged.

c) The Committee shall examine the proofs to establish the age and to confirm whether the deceased was holding a valid driving licence, was wearing a helmet in the event of a two wheeler, was not under the influence of alcohol etc. and that it was not a case of contributory negligence.

d) The Committee shall examine whether the claimant who has suffered injuries due to hitting another vehicle in an attempt to save himself from the animal, has not filed any other case for

compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act.

e) The Committee shall scan the material on record about the apportionment of compensation between different stakeholders and to check to whether the claimant is the only applicant or heir.

f) The Committee shall look into the documents that only establish death or injury and do not establish the cause of such death or injury. The claim is thus based merely on the probabilities.

g) The Committee shall also examine any other valid ground which is based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case.

Provided that in absence of clear proofs of these issues, it shall fall under the disputed question of fact which are required to be determined by the competent court(s) as per law.

8. Award of compensation by the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee.

(1)The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee shall award compensation to the legal heirs of the deceased person or to the victim in case of the permanent incapacitation(70% or above as calculated under the Motor Vehicle Act,1988) or injury to the victim after hearing the parties concerned and also shall pass a detailed order of award of compensation or denying the same on the merit of the case.

(2) Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee shall also examine the liability of the third party or defaulting agencies/ instrumentalities of State and or private person if any, for the incident/accident and may pass orders of recovery of loss caused to the competent authority by fixing responsibility of its loss from the person responsible for the lapse, so to protect the interest of the State.

Provided that the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee shall pass the orders within a period of four months of the claim being filed before it along with the requisite documents.

9. Authorities liable to pay compensation.

(1) The concerned Authority shall be responsible for grant of compensation to the victim of such stray animal attack/death that happened within its jurisdiction.

Provided that applicant victim/deponent shall make such authority as respondent to prove the case against the same.

(2) The following authorities shall be liable to pay compensation to the victim of stray animal attack/ death:

(a) Commissioner of concerned Municipal Corporation, Executive Officer of concerned Municipal Council/Nagar Panchayat in case accident took place within municipal limits.

(b) Gram Panchayat in case the accident took place within an area in its jurisdiction.

(c) District Forest Officer, where the case relating to the accident/incidents have taken place on account of any wild animal.

(d) Executive Engineer PWD (B&R) where the incident/accident due to a stray/wild animal have taken place on the State Roads/State Highways.

(e) Project Director NHAI/his Nominee and Concessionaire/Authorized person of Concessionaire, if any, where the accident/incident happens on National Highway under the jurisdiction of NHAI.

Provided that where place of accident fall under the jurisdiction of more than one authorities, such authorities shall pay the award in equal apportionment as the case may be.

10. Liability of the person responsible for the loss.- The concerned Department or Departments, as the case may be, shall be entitled to and be within its right to recover its loss from the person responsible for the lapse as arrears of land revenue as provided under Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887.

11. Compensation to be paid.

(1) In case of death, the amount of compensation to the legal heirs of a deceased person shall be Rs. Five lakh.

(2) In case of permanent incapacitation as certified by Civil Surgeon of the district, the amount of compensation shall be Rs. Two lakh

(3) In cases relating to dog bite, the financial assistance shall be at a minimum of Rs 10,000 per teeth mark and where flesh has been pulled off it shall be a minimum of Rs. 20,000 per 0.2 cm of wound.

13. Fund for compensation.- In rural areas, the concerned Gram Panchayat, and in urban areas, the concerned Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council or Nagar Panchayat shall be liable to pay the award of compensation as determined by Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee from their own sources. In the cases where the concerned Gram Panchayat does not have adequate funds to pay the award of compensation as determined by the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee, the Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad shall arrange the required funds in order to pay the amount of compensation to the victim.

In case the Panchyati Raj Institutions or the Urban Local Bodies do not have adequate funds to pay the award of the compensation, the State Government shall arrange the required funds for the purpose.

Provided that NHAI, PWD (B&R) and the Department of Forests shall pay the award of compensation from their own resources.

14. Limitation.- No claim made by the victim or dependent(s) shall be entertained after a period of one year from the date of occurrence of the accident caused by the stray animal. However, in deserving cases, if the Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee finds valid reasons for the delay beyond one year, then the Committee may condone such delay.

No such application can be entertained after three years of occurrence of accident.

15. This policy shall be effective from the date of its notification in the Gazette.

Sd/-

TEJVEER SINGH

Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab

Department of Local Government

Form-A

The Animal Attack/Accident Compensation Committee _____

1	Name, Age and Address of the Victim/Applicant.	
2	Details of Driving License and Valid Registration Certificate of Vehicle of Victim (in case of accident of vehicle with animal). Attach the copy of Registration Certificate and Driving License.	
3	Date and Place of Accident along with information about the local authority having control over the area, any record as available by way of entry in DDR or/and report of Police Officer about verifying the claim, statement of witnesses, preparation of site plan and summary, Report of 196 BNSS, Record of Medical Legal Report, Death Certificate, Factual Details/ Position about accident, certificate of Legal Heirs etc., any other relevant documents.	
4	In case of permanent incapacitation, attach certificate of Civil Surgeon of the district.	
5	Claim/Relief	
All the contents of application must be supported with a duly sworn notarized affidavit.		

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